

**REMARKS**

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-10 and 16-20 have been allowed. Claim 21 has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated July 30, 2003, claims 11 and 13 were rejected as being anticipated by Cagnon (3,549,218). The Examiner stated that Cagnon discloses "the axial thrust device (49 of Cagnon) located on an opposite end of the armature from the axial thrust" but the claim requires that the axial thrust generating device (49 of Cagnon) is located on an opposite end of the armature shaft from the support bearing (38 of Cagnon). This configuration is not taught or suggested by the Cagnon (3,549,218) reference. The Cagnon (3,549,218) reference teaches placing the support bearing (38 of Cagnon) and axial thrust generating device (49 of Cagnon) in close proximity to one another on the same end of the armature shaft. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claims 12, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cagnon in view of Giandinoto. The addition of the Giandinoto reference to the Cagnon reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the Cagnon reference described in detail above. The Giandinoto reference also teaches placing the axial thrust generating device (26 of Giandinoto) and support bearing (14 of Giandinoto) on the same end of the armature shaft, and therefore does not overcome the deficiency of the Cagnon reference. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment overcomes all of the Examiner's rejections. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

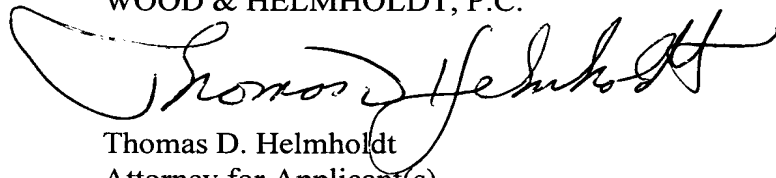
**Application Serial No. 09/856,787**  
**Date October 23, 2003**  
**Reply to Office Action dated July 30, 2003**

**Page 8 of 8**

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of further communication, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE,  
WOOD & HELMHOLDT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas D. Helmholdt", written over the printed name.

Thomas D. Helmholdt  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Registration No. 33181  
(248) 649-3333

3001 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 624  
Troy, Michigan 48084-3107

Dated: October 23, 2003  
TDH/MDJ/jas